



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/071,352	02/08/2002	Eric Auvray	SCP 055914 DIV.1	6297
7590	09/10/2004		EXAMINER	LE, VU
JOSEPH S. TRIPOLI THOMSON MULTIMEDIA LICENSING INC. 2 INDEPENDENCE WAY P.O. BOX 5312 PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2613				
DATE MAILED: 09/10/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/071,352	AUVRAY ET AL.
	Examiner Vu Le	Art Unit 2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2002.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 17,18,23 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 17-18,23-24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/8/02, 1/3/03</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 17 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simon et al., US 4,918,523.

Re claims 17 and 23, Simon et al discloses a method for coding/decoding a sequence of pictures (figs. 2, 16, 48), wherein each picture is divided into blocks of picture elements (col. 4, line 67 to col. 5, line 10), each block being represented by a luminance block and two chrominance blocks (col. 7, lines 5-47) and wherein an inter coding takes into account a previous picture and an intra coding is independent from the previous picture (col. 6, lines 32-45, fig. 2:230 also fig. 16, details of 230), wherein same coding (inter or intra) is applied to the luminance blocks and to the chrominance blocks (fig. 2:230 and fig. 16, col. 9, lines 10-59, col. 11, line 23 to col. 12, line 13, col. 38, lines 13-64, note: In Simon, luminance and chrominance blocks i.e., YIQ sampled data are subjected to either inter or intra coding/decoding).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 18 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon et al in view of Ferre et al, US 4,707,738.

Re claims 18 and 24, Simon et al discloses a method for coding/decoding a sequence of pictures, wherein each picture is divided into blocks of picture elements, each block being represented by a luminance block and two chrominance blocks, wherein an inter coding takes into account a previous picture and an intra coding is independent from a previous picture (these limitations have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claims 17 and 23 above).

Simon fails to teach the limitations of "...and wherein, using weighting coefficients, high spatial frequencies are less weighted than low spatial frequencies and said weighting coefficients have the same values, apart from the application of a multiplication constant, for luminance block and chrominance blocks" as further recited in claim 18,

and the limitations of "...a step of inverse weighting of the spatial frequencies, the weighting coefficients used for this inverse weighting having the same values, apart

from the application of a multiplication constant, for luminance block and chrominance blocks" as further recited in claim 24.

However, Ferre et al makes it well known (fig. 6) the step of using weighting coefficients (23) and inverse weighting (49, also fig. 7) of the spatial frequencies, wherein high spatial frequencies are less weighted than low spatial frequencies and said weighting coefficients have the same values, apart from the application of a multiplication constant (see col. 8, line 65 to col. 9, line 14, col. 10, line 64 to col. 11, line 8) and also suggests such coding/decoding method may be used for luminance block and chrominance blocks (col. 11, lines 33-37).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Simon and Ferre as a whole, it would have been obvious to implement the step of using weighting coefficients and inverse weighting in the manner as recited in claims 18 and 24. The advantage of using weighting coefficients as taught in Ferre et al allows bit rate manipulation by weighting the components such that little weight is given to the coefficients corresponding to medium and high spatial frequencies; or transmitting the variations of the transformation coefficients of a picture with respect to the previous picture, when said pictures show a slightly animated or fixed scene, the reduction in the quantity of the information obtained in this way being used to allocate more transmission bits to the values of the coefficients corresponding to the medium and high spatial frequencies (col. 5, lines 39-51).

Terminal Disclaimer

5. This continuation application fails to provide a copy of the decision on the petition filed June 29, 1995 of parent application 07/408,515, and a copy of the Terminal

Art Unit: 2613

Disclaimer filed September 13, 1993, which had been accepted. To comply with the requirement of the petition decision rendered on September 29, 1995, applicant is advised to provide these copies and also filed with a cover letter requesting the terminal disclaimer be recorded on the continuation application.

Contact

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vu Le whose telephone number is 703-308-6613. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on 703-305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Vu Le
Primary Examiner
AU 2613
(703) 308-6613
Vu.Le@uspto.gov